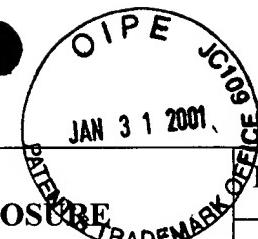
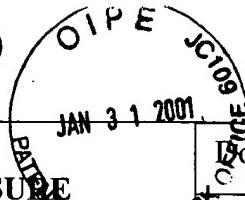


<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>				Docket: 6395-56738	App: 09/673,599	
				Applicant: Howie et al.		
				Filed: April 22, 1999	Art Unit:	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
Init.*	Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub.	Filed
X <sup>S</sup>	4,426,642	1/17/84	Poffenbarger	340	690	Oct. 7 1984
X <sup>S</sup>	4,913,499	4/3/90	Smart	299	12	Nov. 16 1988
X <sup>S</sup>	5,668,325	9/16/97	Hart et al.	73	81	Nov. 21 1996
X <sup>S</sup>	4,156,236	5/22/79	Conkle			
X <sup>S</sup>	3,594,773	7/20/71	Conkle et al.			
X <sup>S</sup>	1,737,514	11/26/29	Nikolish			
X <sup>S</sup>	3,341,843	9/12/67	Walsh			
X <sup>S</sup>	3,672,174	6/27/72	Von Hippel			
X <sup>S</sup>	2,692,924	10/26/54	Williams et al.			
X <sup>S</sup>	4,581,712	4/8/86	Perry et al.			
X <sup>S</sup>	4,134,270	1/16/79	Small et al.			
X <sup>S</sup>	5,542,788	8/6/96	Stankus et al.			
X <sup>S</sup>	4,318,302	3/9/82	Choi			
X <sup>S</sup>	5,185,595	2/9/93	Friesen			
X <sup>S</sup>	4,703,711	11/3/87	Haynes			
X <sup>S</sup>	3,137,268	6/16/64	Hornwood			
EXAMINER: <i>Wiley Siv</i>				DATE <i>65/01/02</i>		
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				Filed: April 22, 1999		Art Unit:	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
Init.*		Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub	Filed
Xs		4,217,849	8/19/80	Brown et al.			
Xs		3,844,248	10/29/74	Parker			RECEIVED
Xs		3,161,174	12/15/64	Harrison			SEARCHED
Xs		5,576,494	11/19/96	Osterberg			INDEXED
Xs		4,070,906	1/31/78	Rupert et al.			FILED
Xs		4,136,556	1/30/79	Graham			2002-01-13
Xs		5,086,651	2/11/92	Westermo et al.			2002-01-13
Xs		4,097,854	6/27/78	Black et al.			2002-01-13
Xs		3,949,353	4/6/76	Waters et al.			2002-01-13
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub	Translation
Xs		716,766	12/28/31	France			No
EXAMINER: <i>Mugir Sin</i>				DATE <i>05/01/02</i>			
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<b>BY APPLICANT</b>		Applicant: Howie et al.	<i>TECHNOLOGY CENTER</i> <i>ART UNIT 1613</i>
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS</b>			

XS		Feng et al., "Neural Network Model for Real-Time Roof Pressure Prediction in Coal Mines," <i>Geomechanics Abstracts</i> , Vol. 33, No. 6, pp. 647-653 (abstract only, 1 page), 1996.
XS		Jiang et al., "Application of Fuzzy Set Theory in the Evaluation of Roof Categories in Longwall Mining," <i>Mining Engineering</i> , Vol. 49, No. 3, pp. 53-57 (abstract only, 1 page), 1997.
XS		Park et al., "Analysis of Longwall Shields and Their Interaction with Surrounding Strata in a Deep Coal Mine," <i>Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Ground Control in Mining</i> , Parkville, Aust., pp. 109-116 (abstract only, 1 page), 1992.
XS		Saghafi, "A Computer Model for Prediction of Load Density on Roof Support in a Single Pass Longwall Mining," <i>Computer Systems in the Australian Mining Industry</i> , University of Wollongong, New South Wales, pp. 91-98 (citation only, 1 page), September 26-28, 1989.
XS		Follington et al., "Continuous Monitoring of Mechanized Breaker Line Supports to Investigate Roof and Pillar Behavior," <i>Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Ground Control in Mining</i> , Parkville, Aust., pp. 345-350 (abstract only, 1 page), 1992.
XS		Qian et al., "Monitoring Indices for the Support and Surrounding Strata System on a Longwall Face," <i>Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Ground Control in Mining</i> , Parkville, Aust., (abstract only, 1 page), 1992.
XS		Zhang et al., "Prediction of Intervals of Main Roof Weighting by an Artificial Neural Network," <i>China Coal Society</i> , Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 25-28 (abstract only, 1 page), 1995.
XS		Stankus et al., "A New Concept for Roof Support," <i>Coal Age</i> , Vol. 101, pp. 67-68, Sept. 1996.
XS		Walker, "Longwall Developments: Manufacturers Meet the Challenge," <i>World Mining Equipment</i> , Vol. 18, Nos. 7-8, pp. 30-32, July-August, 1994.

EXAMINER:	DATE
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<b>BY APPLICANT</b>			Applicant: Howie et al.	
			Filed: April 22, 1999	Art Unit:
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS</b>				
<i>X5</i>			Barczak et al., "Critical Load Studies of a Shield Support," <i>Report of Investigations-United States, Bureau of Mines 9141</i> , 15 pages (abstract only, 1 page), 1987.	
<i>X5</i>			"Digitec Announces Availability of Intelligent Strain Gage/Load Cell Monitor with Instant Peak Capture," News Release Issued by Desco Marketing, Marion, OH, July 27, 1988.	
<i>X5</i>			Pearse, "Geotechnical Equipment Review," <i>World Tunneling and Subsurface Excavation</i> , pp. 325-329, October 1995.	
<i>X5</i>			"The Strain Gage-A Reliable Measurement Tool," <i>Mechanical Engineering</i> , pp. 43-471 (abstract only, 1 page), May, 1985.	
<i>X5</i>			"Making a Show of Control," <i>Manufacturing Chemist</i> , pp. 29-30, April 1994.	
<i>X5</i>			"Recent Mine Safety R&D Projects of the U.S. Bureau of Mines," <i>Engineering &amp; Mining Journal</i> , Vol. 196, No. 11, pp. 26-28, November, 1995.	
			RECEIVED JUL 13 2001 COMPUTER CENTER 2800	
EXAMINER: <i>M. Higgins</i>			DATE <i>05/01/02</i>	
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